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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Thirteenth session,
Geneva, 7-17 July 1997,
agenda item (3 (c))

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Other packaging and IBC matters

Marking Requirements for IBCs: Use of the W mark

Transmitted by the Expert from the United States of America

1. The requirements for packagings and intermediate bulk containers (IBC) both include provisions allowing the competent authority to approve packagings having specifications that differ or are tested differently from those in the Recommendations in order to take account of progress in science and technology. For packagings approved under such conditions, 6.1.2.4 indicates that the UN markings should include a "W" mark in conjunction with the packaging code for indicating that the packaging differs in terms of the packaging specifications or testing. No similar marking is required in the case of IBCs.

2. The expert from the United States proposes that IBCs which are approved by the competent authority to specifications or tests different from those in the Recommendations be marked to indicate that they conform to alternative specifications in the same way as packagings.

Proposal

3. It is proposed that a new paragraph 6.5.1.4.4 be added as follows:

6.5.1.4.4 The letter 'W' may follow the IBC code. The letter 'W' signifies that the IBC, although of the same type indicated by the code, is manufactured to a specification different from those in section 6.5.3 or is tested differently than as described in 6.5.4 and is considered equivalent in accordance with the requirements in 6.5.1.1.2.